

Message Text

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USIAC

USIA FOR IAA DAWSON, IMV SCOTT; STATE DEPT FOR AF/W, AF/P

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT TOLBERT FILM, FORD-CARTER DEBATE VTR

SUMMARY: CHARGE AND PAO HELD SPECIAL SCREENING OF IMV'S THIRTY MINUTE FILM CLIP OF PRESIDENT'S STATE VISIT, PLUS FORD-CARTER FOREIGN POLICY DEBATE LAST NIGHT FOR PRESIDENT AND MRS. TOLBERT AND THE CREME DE LA CREME OF LIBERIAN NATIONAL LEADERSHIP. PRESENTATION WAS IN " CINEMA ROOM" OF EXECUTIVE MANSION. ATTENDEES INCLUDED VICE PRESIDENT GREENE, FOREIGN MINISTER DENNIS, SPEAKER OF HOUSE, PRESIDENT PRO TEM OF SENATE, TRUE WHIG PARTY CHAIRMAN, SIX OTHER MINISTERS, MANY DEPUTY AND LESSER MINISTERS TO TOTAL MORE THAN SIXTY FIVE WITH WIVES. VISITING SWAPO PRESIDENT SAM NUJOMA ALSO ATTENDED. CONTINUAL APPLAUSE PUNCTUATED PRESIDENTS TOLBERT'S AND FORD'S REMARKS IN FILM. KNOWLEDGEABLE LAUGHS, SIGHS AND COMMENTS CAME FROM THE PROFESSIONAL POLITICIANS DURING SHOWING OF DEBATE. SCHEDULE WAS FOR 30 MINUTES OF VTR, EXTENDED 15 MINUTES ON REQUEST OF PRESIDENT - WHO OBVIOUSLY WANTED SEE ALL BUT HAD TO REFRAIN TO SEE WIFE OFF EARLY NEXT MORNING. MANY GUESTS ASKED VIEW SECOND HALF DEBATE LATER.

1. DURING DISCUSSION BETWEEN PRESIDENT AND CHARGE ON FORMER'S RETURN FROM STATE VISIT, SUBJECT OF FILM AROSE AND PRESIDENT IMMEDIATELY ASKED TO SEE IT. LAST NIGHT'S SESSION WAS RESULT.

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CHARGE HAD HELD SPECIAL SHOWINGS FILM CLIP AND FIRST DEBATE

FOR ACTING PRESIDENT REGINALD TOWNSEND AND OTHER MINISTERS DURING STATE VISIT. TOWNSEND ASKED TO SEE OTHERS, AND WHEN CHARGE INFORMED HIM OF ARRIVAL SECOND VTR, TOWNSEND SAID THE PRESIDENT WANTED TO VIEW IT ALSO. (HE HAD SEEN THE FIRST DEBATE IN WASHINGTON.)

2. AT LAST NIGHT'S SESSION CHARGE INFORMED PRESIDENT, OTHERS DOCUMENTARY OF VISIT WAS EXPECTED IN TWO WEEKS OR SO. (SPECIAL SCREENINGS OF VISIT EXECUTIVE MANSION FROM PRESENTATION COPY WILL RESULT.) ON REQUEST MANSION PROTOCOL CHIEF VTR SHOWING WAS CUT AT THIRTY MINUTES. PRESIDENT TOLBERT, OBVIOUSLY A POLITICIAN ENJOYING PERFORMANCE OF TWO OTHERS, ASKED FOR MORE. ABOUT 18 MORE MINUTES WERE SHOWN, AND PRESIDENT WANTED SEE MORE BUT SCHEDULING PROHIBITED.

3. AUDIENCE PLEASED AT PRESIDENT FORD'S, OTHER AMERICANS RECEPION OF PRESIDENT OF LIBERIA. THEY ALSO PLEASED AT PERFORMANCE THEIR CHIEF OF STATE, AND THEY APPLAUDED HIM WHENEVER HE MADE REMARKS ABOUT HIS COUNTRY AND HIS FOUR YEAR PLAN AND ESPECIALLY WHEN HE SPOKE OF LIBERATION OF PEOPLE OF SOUTHERN AFRICA. THEY WERE ENTRANCED BY THE DEBATES AND ASTONISHMENT SHOWED ON THEIR FACES BOTH TIMES WHEN THE VTR WAS STOPPED. MANY ASKED TO BE INCLUDED IN FUTURE SHOWINGS, AND USIS IS ISSUING SPECIAL INVITATIONS FOR NUMBER OF SHOWINGS BEING SCHEDULED.

4. IMV CAN EVALUATE BOTH FILM AND VTR AT SEVEN PLUS IN UTILITY VALUE TO POST OBJECTIVES. REPORT OF FURTHER USAGE WILL BE SENT NEXT WEEK.

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